

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/122,740

Examiner

JEAN B. FLEURANTIN

Applicant(s)

TOMIZAWA, KAZUHIRO

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5-8,23-25 and 29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to the communication on 7/16/2007 with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-8, 23-25 and 29 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 23-25 and 29 has been withdrawn.

The following is the status of claims:

Claims 2, 4, 9-22 and 26-28 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 23-25 and 29 remain pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed 3/15/2007, with respect to the pending claims have been fully considered are persuasive, as a result, the amendment to the claims overcome the rejection. Therefore, the rejection of the last Office action has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul W. Bobowiec (Reg. No. 47,4310) on 7/16/2007.

The application has been amended as follow:

In the claims,

Cancel claim 4.

Replace old version of claim 1 to new version.

Claim 1

A computer application managing method for a case where a plurality of computer applications are stored in a computer-readable storage at locations of the storage, the method comprising:

electronically storing, in the computer-readable storage, a directory structure corresponding to the plurality of applications;

in the computer-readable storage, giving information of the application addresses directly to directories of the directory structure, respectively, the application address information being for identifying the applications, respectively, where the applications are needed for corresponding data files stored in the computer-readable storage using the directories, respectively;

electronically performing management so that when one of the data files is selected a needed application corresponding to the data file of a directory of the directories is automatically selected and executed by referring to the selected data file's directory to obtain its application's address information and therewith access and execute the application at the computer-readable storage location of the thus-obtained address information given to the directory, where the selection for execution is responsive to the data file of the directory being selected;

storing size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, the size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications; and

detecting the size of an application of the plurality of applications from the size information stored in the starting address of the application of the plurality of applications, and searching for a starting address of a next application of the plurality of applications in accordance with the size of the preceding application of the plurality of applications, so as to obtain the starting address of a desired application of the plurality of applications,

wherein one of the plurality of applications is needed when one of the data files is selected.

Replace old version of claim 29 to new version.

Claim 29

An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable storage storing a plurality of applications at addresses of, the plurality of applications comprising:

a directory structure in the computer-readable storage corresponding to the plurality of applications,

wherein in the computer-readable storage information of the application addresses are given directly to directories of the directory structure, respectively, the application address information identifying the applications, respectively, where the applications are needed for corresponding data files, and where the data files are organized and stored in the computer-readable storage using the directories of the directory structure; and

a controller performing management so that when one of the data files is selected a needed application corresponding to the data file of a directory of the directories is automatically selected and executed by referring to the selected data file's directory to obtain its application's address information and therewith access and execute the application at the computer-readable storage location of the thus-obtained address information given to the directory, where the selection for execution is responsive to the data file of the directory being selected, storing size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, the size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, detecting the size of an application of the plurality of applications from the size information stored in the starting address of the application of the plurality of applications, and searching for a starting address of a next application of the plurality of applications in accordance with the size of the preceding application of the plurality of applications, so as to obtain the starting address of a desired application of the plurality of applications,

wherein one of the plurality of applications is needed when one of the data files is selected.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

With respect to claims 1, 3, 5-8, 23-25 and 29 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1 and 29, the claimed features "a plurality of computer applications are stored in a computer-readable storage at locations of the storage, storing size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, the size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, detecting the size of an application of the plurality of applications from the size information stored in the starting address of the application of the plurality of applications, wherein one of the plurality of applications is needed when one of the data files is selected" in conjunction with other elements of the independent claims are not suggested, anticipated or found to be obvious over the prior art made of record.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

The closest prior art, Kikuchi et al., U.S. Patent 5,584,022 relates to enciphered file sharing methods.

Davis et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,918,229 relates to systems and methods that maintain a structured store of data, preferably within a distributed, addressable, shared memory space but fail to teach the above limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 571-272-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2100

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